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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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EXAMINER

HOFFMAN, BRANDON S

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2136

DATE MAILED: 06/28/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/905,401

Applicant(s)

GRUBER, THOMAS ROBERT

Examiner

Brandon S. Hoffman

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 May 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-26 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-26 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 03 May 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-26 are pending in this office action.
2. Applicant's arguments, filed May 3, 2005, have been considered and are persuasive. However, a new ground of rejection has been made in view of Allen et al.

Claim Rejections

3. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

5. Claims 1, 3-5, 7, 13, 14, 17, 22, and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Allen et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0068629 A1).

Regarding claim 1, Allen et al. teaches a method of conducting a secure transaction with an on-line service while offline comprising the steps of:

- Issuing a transaction authorization token to a user from an application server for the on-line service while the user is online (fig. 3 and fig. 4, ref. num 424/426);
- Preparing an off-line transaction object containing data to specify and request the transaction (all of fig. 5);
- Sending a message to the on-line service, said message containing the transaction object and the authorization token (fig. 6, ref. num 610 and fig. 3);
- Upon receipt of the message, the application server validating the token to authenticate the user and to authorize the transaction (fig. 6, ref. num 612); and
- Executing the transaction object if the transaction is authorized (fig. 6, ref. num 614/618).

Regarding claim 3, Allen et al. teaches wherein the token is issued to the user via a download operation while the user is on-line (fig. 4, ref. num 426).

Regarding claim 4, Allen et al. teaches wherein the user prepares the transaction object off-line (paragraph 0043).

Regarding claim 5, Allen et al. teaches wherein the on-line service comprises the application server, and the user requests the token for the transaction from the application server (fig. 4, ref. num 424/426 and paragraph 0040).

Regarding claim 7, Allen et al. teaches wherein the token comprises a unique identifier that is generated by the on-line service when the token is issued (fig. 3, ref. num 320).

Regarding claim 13, Allen et al. teaches wherein the token includes data representing a time period during which the token is valid (end of paragraph 0052).

Regarding claim 14, Allen et al. teaches wherein the token includes data representing a valid access duration for the token (end of paragraph 0052).

Regarding claim 17, Allen et al. teaches further comprising encrypting the transaction object (paragraph 0040).

Regarding claim 22, Allen et al. teaches wherein the application server is a web-based application server (paragraph 0019).

Regarding claim 25, Allen et al. teaches further comprising authenticating the user with a password and a network identity while the user is accessing the on-line service (paragraph 0035).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. Claims 2, 6, 9-12, 15, 16, 19-21, 23, 24, and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Allen et al. (USPGPUB '629) in view of Fischer (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0010638 A1).

Regarding claim 2, Allen et al. teaches all the limitations of claim 2, above. However, Allen et al. does not teach wherein the token is issued to the user via an e-mail message sent from the application server.

Fischer teaches wherein the token is issued to the user via an e-mail message sent from the application server (paragraph 0025).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to combine issuing the token via an e-mail message sent from the application server, as taught by Fischer, with the method of Allen et al. It would have been obvious for such modifications because sending tokens via e-mail provides a user the credentials required for secure processing that can be saved and used at a later time. This is similar to a user signing up for a service (hotmail.com for example) and receiving an e-mail message with the login credentials in the e-mail message.

Regarding claim 9, the combination of Allen et al. in view of Fischer teaches wherein the application server receives an incoming message including the token,

checks the token for validity, and accepts or rejects the token (see fig. 6, ref. num 614 of Allen et al.).

Regarding claim 10, the combination of Allen et al. in view of Fischer teaches wherein the message delivering the token and off-line transaction from the user to the application server is an e-mail message delivered to the application server via an asynchronous e-mail delivery method (see paragraph 0005 of Fischer).

Regarding claim 11, the combination of Allen et al. in view of Fischer teaches where the asynchronous delivery mechanism is database record synchronization (see paragraph 0034 of Fischer).

Regarding claim 12, the combination of Allen et al. in view of Fischer teaches where the asynchronous e-mail delivery method comprises a synchronization of data between a portable computing device and an on-line service (see paragraph 0022 of Fischer).

Regarding claim 21, the combination of Allen et al. in view of Fischer teaches wherein the application server ensures that the token can only be used once by authorizing a specific transaction by a specific user on specific data objects (see fig. 3, ref. num 318/320 and paragraph 0048 of Allen et al.).

Regarding claim 6, Allen et al. teaches all the limitations of claims 1 and 5, above. However, Allen et al. does not teach wherein the application server accesses a database.

Fischer teaches wherein the application server accesses a database (paragraph 0034).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to combine accessing a database, as taught by Fischer, with the method of Allen et al. It would have been obvious for such modifications because the database contains products to be ordered, by accessing the database, correct quantities can be obtained.

Regarding claim 15, Allen et al. teaches all the limitations of claim 1, above. However, Allen et al. does not teach wherein the token specifies an e-mail audit signature, and said token is valid only if the transaction is sent from an e-mail program via an e-mail delivery path that matches the e-mail audit signature.

Fischer teaches wherein the token specifies an e-mail audit signature, and said token is valid only if the transaction is sent from an e-mail program via an e-mail delivery path that matches the e-mail audit signature (paragraph 0025).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to combine an e-mail audit signature for verifying the token, as taught by Fischer, with the method of Allen et al. It would have been obvious for such modifications because the audit signature prevents intruders from using a different e-mail address to trick the system into thinking the intruder is authorized.

Regarding claim 16, the combination of Allen et al. in view of Fischer teaches wherein an e-mail address to which the message is sent varies according to an authorized data object and transaction type (see paragraph 0025 of Fischer).

Regarding claim 19, Allen et al. teaches all the limitations of claim 1, above. However, Allen et al. does not teach wherein the token is contained in a body or a header of an e-mail message.

Fischer teaches wherein the token is contained in a body or a header of an e-mail message (paragraph 0025).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to combine the token contained in a body or header of an e-mail message, as taught by Fischer, with the method of Allen et al. It would have been obvious for such modifications because containing the token in the body of an e-mail

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message provides further authentication and authorization (see paragraph 0025 of Fischer).

Regarding claim 20, Allen et al. teaches all the limitations of claim 1, above. However, Allen et al. does not teach wherein the token and the transaction object are attachments to an e-mail message.

Fischer teaches wherein the token and the transaction object are attachments to an e-mail message (paragraph 0025).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to combine the token and transaction object are attachments to an e-mail message, as taught by Fischer, with the method of Allen et al. It would have been obvious for such modifications because containing the token as an attachment of an e-mail message provides further authentication and authorization (see paragraph 0025 of Fischer).

Regarding claim 23, Allen et al. teaches all the limitations of claim 1, above. However, Allen et al. does not teach whereon said transaction is selected from the group consisting of a database modification, update, adding a file, and editing a file.

Fischer teaches whereon said transaction is selected from the group consisting of a database modification, update, adding a file, and editing a file (paragraph 0022).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to combine transactions consisting of modifications, updating, adding a file, and editing a file, as taught by Fischer, with the method of Allen et al. It would have been obvious for such modifications because editing a file allows the user to obtain the exact purchase order desired by the user.

Regarding claim 24, the combination of Allen et al. in view of Fischer teaches further comprising checking out a file, editing the file off-line, and checking in the file as an e-mail attachment (see fig. 4, ref. num 64/66/68 of Fischer).

Regarding claim 26, Allen et al. teaches all the limitations of claim 1, above. However, Allen et al. does not teach wherein the user comprises a software agent that conducts the transaction on behalf of the user.

Fischer teaches wherein the user comprises a software agent that conducts the transaction on behalf of the user (paragraph 0020).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to combine a software agent that conducts transactions on behalf

of the user, as taught by Fischer, with the method of Allen et al. It would have been obvious for such modifications because a software agent provides an automated process for the user to order products from a vendor.

Claims 8 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Allen et al. (USPGPUB '629) in view of Konheim et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,393,269).

Regarding claim 8, Allen et al. teaches all the limitations of claim 1, above. However, Allen et al. does not teach wherein the token is a one-way encryption of at least one of an identity of the user, a transaction type, and a data object for which the transaction is authorized.

Konheim et al. teaches wherein the token is a one-way encryption of at least one of an identity of the user, a transaction type, and a data object for which the transaction is authorized (col. 23, lines 52-62).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to combine an one-way encryption of the identity to create the token, as taught by Konheim et al., with the method of Allen et al. It would have been obvious for such modifications because the one-way encryption of the identity provides a method for verifying both the content of the transaction and the parties involved (see abstract of Konheim et al.).

Regarding claim 18, Allen et al. teaches all the limitations of claims 1 and 17, above. However, Allen et al. does not teach wherein said encrypting comprises issuing a temporary public key that is a one-way encryption function of an address to which the transaction is to be sent for encryption of the transaction object.

Konheim et al. teaches wherein said encrypting comprises issuing a temporary public key that is a one-way encryption function of an address to which the transaction is to be sent for encryption of the transaction object (col. 23, lines 52-62).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to combine using an one-way encryption function for encrypting the transaction object, as taught by Konheim et al., with the method of Allen et al. It would have been obvious for such modifications because the one-way encryption of the identity provides a method for verifying both the content of the transaction and the parties involved (see abstract of Konheim et al.).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brandon S. Hoffman whose telephone number is 571-272-3863. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30 - 5:00.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ayaz R. Sheikh can be reached on 571-272-3795. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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